NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL

Post Secondary Planning Guide for College Career Readiness

Are You Ready?

ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL

Home of the Jaguars
Scott E. Smith, Principal
13501 Richter Farm Road, Germantown, MD 20874

View this guide on the college career website @ https://bit.ly/3Jmwd1s to be able to access all linked resources <u>OR</u> scan this QR Code:

College Career Resources:

The College Career Information Center: Open before school, during lunch & after school with appointments available on request - virtual or in person - Located on the first floor / adjacent to Counseling Office - Room 126 - Available by email to Rochelle_Davis@mcpsmd.org.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission @ https://mhec.maryland.gov/

DID YOU KNOW? Did you know about the **Academic Common Market** as a way to save on tuition? **What is The Academic Common Market (ACM)?:** The Academic Common Market (ACM) is a tuition-savings program that operates on the premise that if *public* institutions (not including private institutions) in a student's home state do not offer a degree program major (undergraduate or graduate) that a student intends on pursuing, then s/he may attend a *participating* ACM out-of-state institution offering the degree of interest *through the ACM* and be granted a waiver of out-of-state tuition charges. Visit the MHEC website and select the link for Academic Common Market.

Financial Aid Tip for Maryland post-secondary applicants:

Be prepared to accept Maryland state financial aid and apply for state scholarships in the fall of senior year. Learn about the Maryland College Aid Processing System **MDCAPS** and Maryland state scholarships at the **Maryland Higher Education Commission website**.

Internet Resources:
- **Scholarships support @ Northwest:** *Jag Scholarships 'Apply Now' Bulletin* and the *Jag Scholarships 'Apply Later' Forecast Bulletin* available to download online
- **Apprenticeship Programs:** https://www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/appr/
- **The Military**: http://www.asvabprogram.com or usmilitary.about.com
- **The Federal Government Employment**: www.usajobs.gov
- **Federal Government Internships:** www.usajobs.gov ►Search 'internships'
- **Early Action vs. Early Decision:** www.admissionsconsultants.com/college/earlydecision.asp
- **MCPS College Career Information @** montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/careercenter
- **Scholarship Search Engine** @ www.fastweb.com
- **Hispanic Scholarship Fund** @ https://www.hsf.net/scholarship (scholarship opportunities specific to Hispanic students)
- **Scholarship Matching Tool:** https://www.scholarships.com/ (profile required to create)
- **Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund:** www.maldef.org ► Select 'Resources' link and click on 'Scholarship Resources' for the latest publication of the *Scholarship Resource Guide* that contains a list of opportunities for Latino students who may have immigration related concerns)

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) @ https://studentaid.gov used to determine federal student aid eligibility. FAFSA filing opens October 1 of senior year
CSS Profile @ https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org used by specific colleges and scholarship programs to award institutional aid. Deadline to complete is determined by each specific college. A list of institutions requiring the CSS profile is available using the CSS Profile link.
County-wide Financial Aid Seminars @
https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/careercenter/

Postsecondary Planning and Navigating Senior Year:

- College, career or technical school… *exploring options*
- Navigating the college application process and college application components
- Postsecondary planning timeline
- Coalition App, the Common App and the College Essay
- College Testing & Prep
- Advanced Placement (AP) Course Information
- What's ahead for the rising senior and a glimpse of financial aid

Caseload for the 2022-2023 school year:

Last Name:	Counselor:	E-Mail Address:	Administrator
A – Boak	Mr. Jeff Flach	Jeffrey_Flach@mcpsmd.org	Ms. Erika Singleton
Boal - Dau	Ms. Tamela McCarthy-Redd	Tamela_McCarthy-Redd@mcpsmd.org	Ms. Ericka Singleton
Dav - Gh	Ms. Chrissy Kravitz	Christine_M_Kravitz@mcpsmd.org	Ms. Nikki Morales
Gi - Jim	Ms. Nancy Blanco	Nancy_P_Blanco@mcpsmd.org	Ms. Nikki Morales
Jin - Lit	Ms. Athena Cois	Athena_D_Cois@mcpsmd.org	Ms. Dayo Banjo
Liu - Mun	Mr. Austin Freeman	Austin_M_Freeman@mcpsmd.org	Ms. Danielle Abdelsalam
Muo - Ole	Ms. Jodi Edmunds	Jovan_M_Edmunds@mcpsmd.org	Ms. Danielle Abdelsalam
Olf - Ros	Ms. Sammy Kakoullis	Mary_S_Buck@mcpsmd.org	Mr. Jake Lee
Rot - Thai	Ms. Christina Kim	Christina_Y_Kim@mcpsmd.org	Ms. Tara Dee Henry
Thaj - Z	Ms. Nataly Saah (substitute)	Nataly_M_Saah2@mcpsmd.org	Ms. Tara Dee Henry

*ASSIGNMENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Department Resource Counselor: Ms. Jodi Edmunds
Counseling Department Secretary: Ms. Angelica Agosto (Angelica_M_Agosto@mcpsmd.org)
Registrar: Ms. Jacqueline Scholl (Jacqueline_L_Scholl@mcpsmd.org)
Counseling Secretary/Asst. Registrar: Ms. Anu Shivacharan (Anupama_R_Shivacharan@mcpsmd.org)
College Career Information Coordinator: Ms. Rochelle Davis (Rochelle_Davis@mcpsmd.org)

By phone:
Counseling Office: (240) 740-7080 | Registrar's Office: (240) 740-7095| College Career: (240) 740-7076

Counseling Services:

Counselors are available for student drop ins before school, during lunch, and after school. Students can also schedule an appointment to meet their counselor during the school day by emailing their counselor or stopping by a drop-in time and scheduling a counselor appointment with one of the secretaries. As soon as possible, the counselor will send a pass to the student's class to meet with him or her.

Parents: In order to see your child's counselor, please call (240) 740-7080 or email to make an appointment. Counselors are more likely to be able to meet with you by calling ahead.

Making Decisions for Senior Year - Exploring half day options:

Internship:
Program Coordinator: Mr. Conor Prachar via email: Conor_Prachar@mcpsmd.org.
Website: https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/northwesths/internship/
- Opportunity to get real-world experience in future career interests
- Strong candidates have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and good attendance

Montgomery College (MC) Dual Enrollment Program:
Dual Enrollment Program Assistant (DEPA) for Northwest HS: Ms. Stacie Berman @
Stacie_E_Berman@mcpsmd.org
- High school students have the opportunity to earn college credit
- Application process begins with the student's counselor during senior year registration.

Junior | Senior Year Timeline for pursuing College or Career:

Spring of junior year:
- Earn the best grades possible.
- Review senior year course selections.
- Explore options. *Career or College?* Tour college campuses and/or vocational schools and talk with admissions representatives, professors, and students. If unable to visit, take a virtual tour on the school website. Research college admission requirements. Use Naviance to create a college list.
- Plan for College Admissions tests. If the ACT or SAT are required for schools of interest, prepare to take the test.
- Explore summer jobs, internships and pre-college programs and complete SSL hours.
- Work on your resume.
- Complete the Northwest Brag Sheet in Naviance (survey) and request teacher college recommendations.
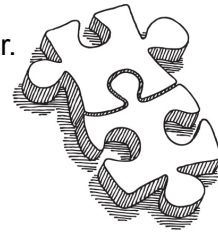
Summer before senior year:
- Register and attend College Career Summer Workshops.
- Preview the Common Application and/or Coalition Application essay prompts.
- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center if you are planning to play a Division I or Division II sport in college.
- Research scholarship opportunities. Resources available on the Northwest website.

Fall Senior Year:
- Narrow down your college list and register for college tests. 6-10 colleges including target, safety, and reach schools.
- Secure letters of recommendation (Students are encouraged to ask teachers in June prior to senior year).
- Focus on college essays and college applications.
- Apply for financial aid with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA**)** – application opens Oct 1.
- Research your colleges to determine if the CSS Profile is needed for financial aid consideration.
- Use high school resources to research local and national scholarships.
- Submit your college applications by the college deadlines.
- Submit your Transcript Request Form linked from our Counseling web page. **Select Jump to Transcript Requests** (upper right area of the web page).
- Maintain strong grades in high school courses. Colleges will ask for senior grades!

Finding the Right College Career 'Fit' for your post secondary plan:

Step 1: Think about why you want to go to college or pursue a particular career.
Step 2: Decide what is important to you in a college or trade school.
Step 3: Gather information about the schools you are considering.
Step 4: Research and compare schools.
Step 5: Make your decisions
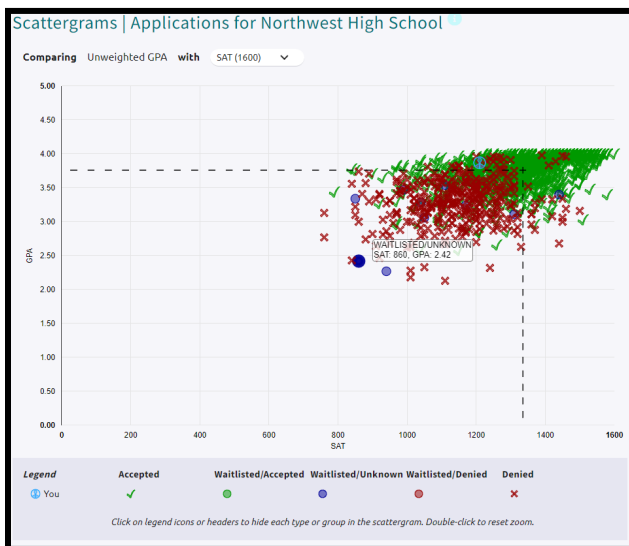**Step 6:** Meet your deadlines for application.

Tour the campus or school site | Consider cost | Have a conversation with your counselor

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College Career Application Components & Admissions Criteria:

- Academic Record GPA, Courses & Grades
- Admissions Test (SAT, ACT, TOEFL* or Duolingo*)
- Extracurricular Activities & Community Service
- Essay
- Letters of Recommendation

*Tests specific to English as a second language
Resource for Northwest student admissions snapshot:
Naviance Scattergrams → Colleges → Select a school

Scattergrams | Applications for Northwest High School
Comparing Unweighted GPA with SAT (1600)
WAITLISTED/UNKNOWN
SAT: 860, GPA: 2.42
Legend You Accepted ✓ Waitlisted/Accepted ● Waitlisted/Unknown ● Waitlisted/Denied ● Denied ✗
Click on legend icons or headers to hide each type or group in the scattergram. Double-click to reset zoom.

The 4-Year College Plan: The Application Process at Northwest High School:
Connecting online using Naviance | Student, eDocs, the Common App & the Coalition App…

ᴇ**Docs** is an online feature linked to a student's Naviance | *Student* account.   ᴇ**Docs** is a streamlined college application process for Northwest staff and students. **Staff use of ᴇDocs includes:**

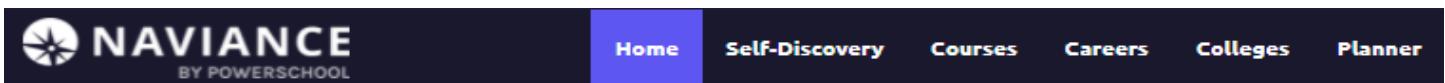❑   **Electronic transmission** – the ability for school staff to transmit transcripts, recommendations and supporting college application documents electronically to colleges and universities, including electronic submission to schools who are members of the Common App or Coalition App.

Northwest seniors and parents will use Naviance | *Student* account **for:**

❑   **Application Tracking** – the ability for students to keep track of colleges where they have applied. *Seniors applying to schools using the Common App will also be required to match their Common App account in their* Naviance | *Student account.* No matching is required when applying using the Coalition App.
❑   **Transcript Tracking** – the ability for students to view the status of transcript requests for college applications and scholarships.
❑   **Letter of Recommendations** – the ability for students to request college recommendations and view the status of those requests

https://student.naviance.com/northwest

Alert! DO NOT GOOGLE Naviance | *Student*. **Use the above URL address for Northwest access.**

NAVIANCE BY POWERSCHOOL   Home   Self-Discovery   Courses   Careers   Colleges   Planner

All students should have a Naviance | *Student* account. Send parent requests for registration to the College Career Information Center @ Rochelle_Davis@mcpsmd.org.

The College Application, Letters of Recommendations & Transcript Requests:

THE COLLEGE APPLICATION:

College applications are the responsibility of the student. Many colleges and universities require students to submit online applications. Students may also opt to use the **Common Application**, which allows students to apply to multiple schools through one online application.   For more information on The Common Application, visit commonapp.org.   The **Coalition Application** is a set of free online college planning tools that helps students learn about, prepare for and apply to college. Using the **MyCoalition** platform, students are able to apply to multiple colleges who are members of the Coalition. For more information on the **Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success**, visit coalitionforcollegeaccess.org.

There is no direct phone number access for **The Common App**. The Application Solutions Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.   It has an average response time of under one hour. Visit commonapp.org/help-center web page for a link to Applicant Solutions.   There are video postings and Frequently Asked Questions available on the **Coalition** web pages. Email questions to info@coalitionapp.org.

Schools will clearly state on their website the options available for completing their application. Look at the structure of each option before deciding which option to choose.
- Common Application or Coalition Application
- Black Common Application. Apply to any/all partner members for one fee.
- School-specific application.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

For **letters of recommendation**, students will be required to complete the **Student Self-Evaluation Questionnaire** which is a survey in Naviance | *Student*. Counselors and teachers will use survey responses to write college and scholarship recommendations. Students can also download the questionnaire from the Counseling web page and provide hard copies of their responses to teachers and their counselor for letters of recommendation. Students always have the option of making an appointment with their counselor to discuss their recommendation and college choices. **Important note:** If the recommender is not a current Northwest HS staff member, please provide the recommender with the email address for the college and/or career school admissions office or an address for mailing their recommendation. Their recommendation must be sent directly to the school where you are applying.

- One or two teacher letters of recommendation and a counselor recommendation
- Teachers from grades 11 or 12 preferred
- Core subject teachers are preferred
- Ask teachers personally before you make the official request in Naviance
- Make your request at the end of spring semester
- Supplemental recommendations may be accepted by cannot replace the required teacher and counselor recommendation(s)
- Remember to thank your recommenders

TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS:

For **transcript requests**, students will be required to complete the **College & Scholarship Transcript Request Form** which now includes the *Release of Records & Early Decision Acknowledgement Form*. The counseling web page has a link to these Google Forms along with a PDF version available to download. Follow the instructions on the form for processing.

The Essay:
- Common App and Coalition App both offer options for the essay topic
- Be aware of supplemental essays that may be required to complete the college application

Find the Coalition Essay Prompts @ https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/essays
Find the Common App Essay Prompts @ https://www.commonapp.org/apply/essay-prompts

Resources from Link for Counselors → The Essay:

Here are our top five tips for you to share with your juniors for keeping a journal to generate ideas for the college essay:

- **Ask yourself,** "What do colleges know about me?" After that, ask, "What else do I want them to know? Why?" Think traits and characteristics, rather than experiences. (Are you serious? Industrious? Resourceful? Creative? Funny? Hard Working? Analytical?) Write the answers down in the first page of your journal.
- **Once you know what you want readers to learn about you,** start thinking about stories or experiences that illustrate those characteristics. You will write about them in this journal as often as you want, with as many details as you need to remember the experiences you choose to include in your journal.
- **Think of your journal entries as though they were quick snapshots from your cell phone – something you might post on Facebook or a photo-sharing website.** Their purpose is to jog your memory and remind you of an experience, not to capture it in spectacular detail.
- **If you try to record everything that happens** on your trip to the Grand Canyon or every life-changing insight from your summer job as a swim teacher, you will give up after a day or two. On the other hand, if you jot down, "Sunset with Brian and Sarah. The sky looked like it was painted in watercolor," you will remember that evening forever.
- **If you scribble,** "Ava finally put her head in the water! I threw the red plastic ring to the bottom of the pool, and she went straight down for it," you will also remember the way the sun hit the diving board and the woman in the lounge chair who sat by the pool all summer with iced tea and a trashy novel.

Building the High School Resume & Application follow up:

Use the tool at your fingertips! Naviance | *Student* **@** https://student.naviance.com/northwest
Select 'About Me' → Under Documents and Notes → Resume

Once the application is submitted, check college accounts for updates and status. Consider following up with an email to admissions.

Resources from Link for Counselors → Connecting by Email? Remember the basics:

Email Etiquette and Tips
What is "Etiquette"?
The customary code of polite behavior in social and professional settings

Here are 5 basic rules you should try to adhere to:
Rule #1: Always include a subject and include the recipient's name in the greeting
Rule #2: Do not write in ALL CAPITALS! Writing in all capitals may convey that you are shouting in your message; and nobody likes to be yelled at! Consider other ways to get your message across and communicate its importance. Using all capitals is not appropriate and can trigger an unintended response.
Rule #3: Be mindful when using abbreviations and emoticons. Save abbreviations like LOL and IDK for text messages with friends. Some may not understand your abbreviations and they are not professional.
Rule #4: Think, review, and proofread before you send! Ask yourself "is this okay to send?" and "did I reread and review this?"
Rule #5: Do not send if...
- The email can be interpreted in a bad way
- The email could get you in trouble

The College Application & Testing Information:
TEST OPTIONAL - TEST BLIND - TEST FLEXIBLE ADMISSIONS POLICIES:

If a college or university has a **test-optional admissions policy**, that means they allow all or some applicants to decide whether to submit SAT or ACT scores as part of their application. It does not mean that the schools are not interested in seeing all applicants' performance and potential - but if a student does not submit their scores, it will not be considered in the application review. If scores are submitted, they could be used as part of admissions review.

from the College Board Blog
https://blog.collegeboard.org/what-is-a-test-optional-college

If a college or university has a **test-blind admissions policy**, test scores are not considered for admissions review even if they are submitted.

from CollegeRaptor.com

If you're not a good standardized test-taker but don't want to simply not submit a test score, there are test flexible schools. **Test flexible** colleges or universities allow students to choose which type of test (or tests) they'd like to submit with their application.

from Collegedata.com

COLLEGE TESTING REGISTRATION & SCORE REPORTS TO COLLEGES:

SAT or ACT Registration. If you plan to apply to any four-year colleges, you should consider taking the ACT or SAT during the spring of your junior year and/or fall of your senior year. Check with each college or university where you plan to apply to review their testing policy and requirements. Some four-year colleges may be test optional or test blind for application review. Research your colleges to determine the best test plan for you.

Students will be responsible for requesting electronic score reports be sent to colleges directly from College Board (SAT) or ACT. Registration for both the ACT and SAT is online. If there is a need for financial assistance to cover registration costs, see the College Career Information Center staff for help with the waiver request process. FEE WAIVERS are available for students who meet specified eligibility requirements. **COLLEGE REGISTRATION INCLUDES THE SCHOOL CODE. THE SCHOOL CODE FOR NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL IS 210-589. The SAT Test Center Code for Northwest is 21-298.**

Registration dates for remaining ACT & SAT Test Dates (2022-2023 school year)

The **May 6** SAT has a regular registration deadline of **April 7**.
The **June 3** SAT has a regular registration deadline of **May 4.**
2023-2024 College Board anticipates an **August 26, 2023 test date** with a registration deadline of **July 28.**
Updates on registration can be found at https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat

The **June 10** ACT has a regular registration deadline of **May 5.**
The **July 15** ACT has a regular registration deadline of **June 16.**
2023-2024 ACT test dates and registration information can be found at https://www.act.org/

College Testing Registration Fee Waivers *may be available for first-time test takers with waiver eligibility*. Visit the college career web page and select college & career testing information for details on how to request a waiver.

Montgomery College & College Level Placement Testing. Student's applying to MC are encouraged to take the Accuplacer which determines a student's ability to take college-level coursework. MC offers multiple placement options, including transcript review for Accuplacer exemption.

College Testing Options: The SAT - The ACT* and the Accuplacer College Tests:

	The SAT collegereadiness.collegeboard.org	The ACT actstudent.org	The Next Gen ACCUPLACER montgomerycollege.edu
The Test:	Focused on the skills and knowledge at the heart of education. Measures: ● What you learn in high school ● What you need to succeed in college	Measures academic achievement in English, math, reading, and science	Measures readiness for college level coursework in math, reading, and writing
How do colleges use the test?	Used by universities and colleges as part of the application process	Used by universities and colleges as part of the application process	Used by many community colleges and some four-year schools for course placement
Content & Sections w/time allotted and number of questions	**Reading:** Read passages and interpret informational graphics. Then you'll use what you've read to answer questions. **65 min. | 52?'s** **Writing & Language:** Three things that people do all the time when they write and edit: 1. Read. 2. Find mistakes and weaknesses. 3. Fix them. **35 min. | 44?'s** **Math:** Asks you to use the math that you'll rely on most in all sorts of situations. Questions on the Math Test are designed to mirror the problem solving and modeling you'll do in: ● College math, science, and social science courses ● The jobs that you hold ● Your personal life **80 min. | 58?'s** **Total test time:** approx. 3 hours	**Math:** Mathematical skills typically acquired in courses up to the beginning of grade 12. **60 min. | 60?'s** **Science:** Interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning and problem-solving skills required in biology, chemistry, Earth/space sciences and physics. **35 min. | 40?'s** **Reading:** Ability to read closely, reason logically about texts using evidence, and integrate information from multiple resources. **35 min. | 40?'s** **English:** Ability to make decisions to revise and edit short texts and essays in different genres. **45 min. | 75?'s** **Optional Writing:** Measures writing skills taught in high school English classes and in entry-level college composition courses. **40 min. | 1 prompt** **Total Test Time:** approx. 3	Multiple placement options including submitting college test scores, the high school transcript and remote placement. Visit the Montgomery College website @ **montgomerycollege.edu** and search **'Accuplacer Placement'** for information on test content, scheduling, scoring and score reporting. Computer adaptive
Scoring	Score Range: 400 - 1600; 200 to 800 Evidence Based Reading & Writing; 200 to 800 Math **No penalty for wrong answers**	Highest Score 36 **No penalty for wrong answers**	

SAT score reporting information can be found on their website. Scroll down to *'Learn How to Send Scores'*
ACT score reporting information can be found on their website. Click on *'Your Score + More'*

College Test Prep Options:

ADDITIONAL INTERNET RESOURCES:

montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/northwest/careercenter/testinginfo

ONLINE OPTIONS:

College Test Prep online with ACT | PSAT | SAT:
ACT online prep @ actstudent.org
SAT online prep @ sat.collegeboard.org/practice/

Khan Academy:
A not-for-profit with the goal of changing education for the better by providing a free excellent education for anyone anywhere. All of the site's resources are available to anyone free of charge.
khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat

"We were originally thinking SAT, but then Noah's admissions advisor told us left-handed students born on Tuesdays do better on the ACT."

Free SAT Prep for High School Students:
MCPS is pleased to partner with FEV Tutor to provide students high-quality virtual tutoring sessions personalized for their needs. High school students can sign up for a free six-week course between now and May. Contact FEV Tutor at mcps@fevtutor.com or 855-763-2607 with questions.

George B. Thomas Saturday School:
SAT/ACT Test Preparation @ https://saturdayschool.org/programs/#sat

BY THE BOOK OPTIONS:

NORTHWEST ⟨jaguar⟩ HIGH SCHOOL

College Test Prep OFFERED AT NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL:
Standardized Test Preparation courses help prepare students for national standardized tests such as the PSAT SAT and ACT. In particular, these courses assist students in developing and/or expanding their vocabulary test-taking and reasoning skills through study lectures and practice drills. Course topics may include vocabulary review, root words, prefixes and suffixes, mathematical concepts, logic and rules, and general problem-solving and test-taking strategies. (0.5 credit | Course Curriculum Reference: English | NSS2000)

Montgomery College:

SAT and ACT Preparation

The Montgomery College Workforce Development and Continuing Education (WDCE) Office offers SAT and ACT Prep courses in various MCPS schools during the school year and at Montgomery College during the summer. The courses meet either after school, in the evening, or on Saturday mornings. Courses strengthen students' test taking skills so that they can achieve a score that truly reflects their ability. Course focuses on familiarizing students with test questions and guiding students in developing test taking strategies, managing test anxiety, increasing confidence and speed. For information on course offerings, cost, textbooks, locations and registration call 240-567-5188 or visit the WDCE web site @
montgomerycollege.edu/workforce-development-continuing-education/test-prep/sat/
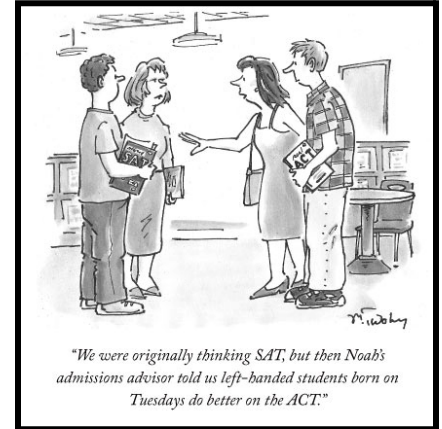
PRIVATE TUTORING OPTIONS:
Please note that these companies are not sponsored nor endorsed by the BOE of MCPS, the superintendent, or this school. Please make your own decision when using these resources.

C2 Education @ c2educate.com | 1.800.777.7000 |
Kaplan @ kaplan.com
Princeton Review @ princetonreview.com

Advanced Placement Courses & the Exam:

Students enrolled in an AP course should take the exam for that course. Financial assistance may be available for students who qualify. For current year exam dates, details visit **collegeboard.org** and select **AP.**

PLAN FOR YOUR AP SUCCESS!

CLASS	# HRS. PER DAY	CLASS	# HRS. PER DAY	CLASS	# HRS. PER DAY
AP Bio (DP)	30 TO 45 MIN	AP Euro History	1 HOUR	AP Spanish	20 MIN TO 1 HOUR
AP Calc AB	45 MIN TO 1 HOUR	AP French	20 MIN TO 1 HOUR	AP Stat	1 HOUR
AP Calc BC	45 MIN TO 1 HOUR	AP Human Geogr	30 MIN TO 1 HOUR	AP Studio 2D:	
AP Chem (DP)	30 TO 45 MIN	AP Macro	30 TO 45 MIN	Digital Art	VARIES
AP Com Gov	1 HOUR	AP Micro	30 TO 45 MIN	Digital Photo	VARIES
AP Comp Sci	1 HOUR	AP Music Theory	VARIES	Drawing	VARIES
AP Eng Lang & Comp	30 MIN TO 1 HOUR	AP Physics 1/2	30 MIN TO 1 HOUR	AP US Govt	1 ½ HOURS
AP Eng Lit	40 MIN	AP Physics C	45 MIN	AP US Hist	1 HOUR
AP Env Sci	30 MIN TO 1 HOUR	AP Psych	30 MIN	AP World Hist	1 HOUR

Exploring Military Options:

Enlisting in the Military: The U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines provide job training in many fields, as well as opportunities for enlistees to take some college-level courses. The services can also help you build a college fund (Montgomery GI Bill). The U.S. Coast Guard may also be an option with limited enlistment.

The **National Guard** consists of two components: The Army National Guard (ARNG) and the Air National Guard (ANG). The mission of the National Guard is to serve the state in times of natural disaster or civil disturbance, and the nation in times of war. Flexible scheduling is offered to serve along with educational benefits.

Each service has its own enlistment qualifications. Local recruiter information is available on our website. For additional information regarding the military, visit www.militarycareers.com. Enlistment will also require taking the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test. The ASVAB is offered at the high school level at no cost and no obligation to the military.

Exploring Careers & the Workforce Options:

Apprenticeship Programs: For students interested in learning a trade or receiving a certification or license, there are apprenticeship programs. An apprenticeship is a paid period of training that allows you to learn a particular skill or set of skills. Resources for apprenticeships:
- MCPS Youth Apprenticeship Programs
- Maryland Apprenticeships or research Registered Apprenticeship Programs

Entering the Workforce: The workforce provides students with an opportunity to earn a salary right after high school. There are several websites that post employment opportunities such as www.indeed.com, www.monster.com and www.ziprecruiter.com. Students may also want to take advantage of youth employment services and opportunities offered with WorkSource Montgomery. This organization helps Montgomery County residents with career development, offering services such as: job preparation skills, interview coaching/mock interviews, training opportunities, resume building and parent workshops.

Exploring the 2-Year College Plan with Montgomery College & Honors Programs:

Apply online @ montgomerycollege.edu

Macklin Business Institute Scholars Program

MBI is an honors program for college students with a focus in business. Graduates receive an associate of arts degree (A.A.) then transfer to a four-year business school to complete a baccalaureate degree. For more information, visit montgomerycollege.edu/academics/honors/macklin-business-institute.

Montgomery College Montgomery Scholars Program

Montgomery Scholars is an academically rigorous program designed to transfer students at the end of their sophomore year to the nation's finest colleges and universities. For more information, visit montgomerycollege.edu/academics/honors/montgomery-scholars.

Looking Ahead to Senior Year:

- **The Montgomery County Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) College Fair: Spring 2023. Tuesday, April 18 evening program from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**. Adventist HealthCare Fieldhouse (formerly Discovery Sports Center). **Northwest field trip: Tuesday, April 18 from 10 am to 12 noon.**
- **College Career Information Center Summer Workshops.** Information will be posted on our website.
- **Senior Meeting – Evening meeting in September:** The College Application Process Review. Students and parents are also encouraged to schedule an appointment with their counselor over the summer to discuss their student's postsecondary plans.

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

- High School College Career Visits. Representatives from colleges and career schools across the US schedule visits with Northwest students to share campus and admission. Visits may take place in the College Career Information Center or in a virtual format. Students can register to attend a visit using their Naviance | *Student* account.
- Counselors visit senior English classes to discuss post-secondary planning.
- Financial Aid Webinar at Northwest. Date TBD. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) filing begins October 1 @ fafsa.gov.
- FAFSA Fever Event at Montgomery College. FREE. FAFSA assistance provided to all college-bound families. Ongoing usually from October through February.

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

- College Career National Hispanic College Fund, Inc. sponsored Fair. No cost to participating students. Sponsored by the National Hispanic College Fair, Inc.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

- MCPS Historically Black Colleges & Universities College Fair.
- ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) Career Exploration Program Testing.

MARCH

- ASVAB Interpretations (Test Score Distribution & Explanation)

NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL

Create a Personal College Career App Planning Sheet!

One Time Only!

☐ Request Letters of Recommendation (*LOR*) *Step 1*. Make Request & *Step 2*. Confirm in Naviance (*Please note: If your recommender is not a current Northwest HS staff member, provide them with an email to your college admissions office. Their recommendation must be sent directly to the college or career school*).

☐ Authorization for Release of Student Records Form (*Transcript Request Form*) download from the 'Counseling' web page

☐ FERPA Common App (*Done through the Common App and then you confirm in Naviance*)

For Each School:

Name of the college or career/trade/vocational school:	Application (App) Type:	App Deadline:	Transcript Request Submitted?	Scores Sent (SAT/ACT, Other)?	LOR Requested? (note date)	Supplemental Materials Needed?	Application Submitted?
1. JMU [EXAMPLE]	online	EA: 1/1/20XX	YES: 9/25/XX	YES: 9/25/XX	YES: 9/25/XX	No	Oct. 15
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.							

App Type: Common App (*CA*) ● Coalition | eDocs | Online ● By Mail

App Deadlines: Early Action (*EA*) ● Early Decision (*ED*) ● Priority (*PR*) ● Regular (*REG*)
● Rolling Admissions (*ROL*) ● Open Admissions (*O*)

LOR: Letter of Recommendation

Comparing colleges & career schools

Questions to Ask & Reference Information	Name of Institution #1:	Name of Institution #2	Name of Institution #3
Website Reference:			
Campus location: City & State			
Campus setting: Rural	Urban	Suburban			
Popular Majors:			
Undergraduate enrollment:			
Student to Faculty Ratio:			
Average accepted ACT:			
Average accepted SAT:			
Average accepted GPA:			
Type of application used: Coalition? Common App? On website?			
College Application Deadline:			
Cost of Tuition:			
Cost of Room	Board & Fees			
Scholarship opportunities:			
% of need met			
Financial Aid Deadline:			
FAFSA and/or CSS Profile Required:			

Glossary of Career, College & Financial Aid Terms:

- **Early Decision:** A plan in which students submit a college application in November or December and learn of their acceptance in December or January. If admitted, the students MUST <u>WITHDRAW</u> their other applications and accept the school's offer. You may only apply for early decision to one school therefore; only use this plan if you have no doubts about where you want to attend college.
- **Early Action:** Differs from early decision in that students are not required to accept admission or withdraw applications from other schools if accepted. Students may submit applications to more than one early action program.
- **Early Admission:** A program in which a college accepts high school students to enroll before they graduate from high school. Admissions standards are more stringent for early admissions.
- **Early Notification:** A program in which applicants must file their papers by December 1 in order to receive an admission decision by February 1.
- **Open Admissions:** A policy adopted by a number of institutions that allows virtually all applicants to enroll.
- **Priority Admissions:** Applicants are given the strongest consideration for admission, student housing, scholarships and financial aid.
- **Rolling Admissions:** Ongoing admission committee review of a student's application.
- **Candidate Notification Date or Common Reply Date:** The date by which a college notifies a student of their decision, usually April 15.
- **Candidate Reply Date:** The date by which a student must notify the college of his/her enrollment intentions. Acceptance withdrawn by the college if the applicant fails to reply. (The date is usually May 1.)
- **The Common Application:** A college application accepted by 125+ colleges/universities available on line @ **commonapp.org**
- **Cooperative Education:** A combination of classroom study and work experience directly related to classroom study.
- **Deferral:** A term used to identify early-decision candidates denied admission in December but considered for regular admissions.
- **Deferment:** A policy by which a college allows a student to defer enrollment for one year. If notification is given, a tuition deposit space is reserved. Not used for academic study elsewhere.
- **Demonstrated interest:** One of the admissions criteria used by some colleges and universities. The term refers to ways that an applicant shows he or she is serious about enrolling at a given college.
- **Award Letter**: A notice from a financial aid office to a financial aid applicant that specifies the financial aid programs dollar amount of each financial aid award.
- **Bursar:** The on-campus office where you pay your tuition and associated school fees.
- **Cost of Attendance**: The total sum of a student's tuition, room/board, books, supplies, transportation, associated loan fees, and any other expenses.
- **CSS/Financial Aid Profile**: The CSS profile is a College Board financial aid form that collects information for colleges to award non-federal student aid funds. This form is not required by all colleges.
- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** Federal government application is completed to determine federal financial aid such as grants, loans, and work-study.
- **FSA ID:** The electronic signature required to submit the FAFSA. FAFSA applicants create their own FSA ID (one for the student applicant and one for at least one parent) as part of the application process.
- **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**: Generated as a result of the FAFSA submission, this indicates how much money the federal government estimates a student and family can afford to contribute towards the year's college costs.
- **Student Aid Report (SAR):** The document received after the FAFSA is processed which will include all the applicant's responses from FAFSA submission. The applicant can review the SAR and make corrections if needed.

**Northwest High School Counseling Office &
College Career Information Center:**
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/northwesths/
Click on "Counseling" and/or "College Career"